

need to form an association that could effectively communicate the concerns of small-business truckers to lawmakers, OOIDA was established in 1973.

Most of the founding members had returned to trucking full-time shortly after OOIDA was established. Jim was elected president and CEO of OOIDA in 1975, the Association's third president since its founding two years earlier. As Jim put it, he was the "only one left and too dumb or stubborn to know when to quit."

From its humble beginning in an office trailer chained to a light pole in Grain Valley, he grew OOIDA into the largest national organization fighting for the rights of all professional truckers. Under his leadership, OOIDA has grown to more than 160,000 members nationwide, increased its relentless advocacy efforts in Washington, DC, and offers a robust collection of unique services and programs for drivers.

Jim was OOIDA's leader for more than 42 years. OOIDA was his life's work and fighting for the rights of all truckers was his life's mission. Up until only days before his passing, he remained dedicated to both.

Jim leaves behind family, friends, and colleagues, but his contributions to the trucking industry will live forever.

#### AMERICA CAN AND SHOULD HELP THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM IN IRAN

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, cracks are forming in the iron grip of the Iranian regime. The latest wave of protests sweeping Iran demonstrates yet again that dictatorial regimes are inherently doomed because they lack the enduring consent of the people they rule.

Yet just as our forefathers required foreign assistance to finally shed the chains of tyranny, we too must stand with the Iranian people as they defy their oppressors. Utilizing our economic, political, and technological might, rather than armed intervention, the United States should rectify past inaction and amplify the voices of Iranians.

For nearly four decades, the mullahs in Tehran have used brutality and religious zeal to cling to power and steal from the Iranian people. When they seized power in 1979, they were part of a larger, ideologically diverse movement opposed to the monarchical rule of the Shah. The Islamist clerics led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, however, turned on their revolutionary comrades and imposed theocratic rule once the monarchy fell. Thousands of Iranians of different political stripes were executed without trial while many more, such as members of the People's Mujahideen of Iran, were forced into exile. Whatever promise many Iranians thought would come in 1979 proved to be a mirage that replaced one corrupt dictator with another.

Since then, the theocrats in Tehran have wasted their nation's vast resources on their violent regional ambitions, sponsoring terrorism and militancy from Lebanon to Yemen. However, it is the Iranian people more than any that have endured the persistent brutality of the supreme leader and his Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps thugs. We witnessed this

in 2009, when thousands of Iranians took to the street to reject the rigged election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The subsequent crackdown by the regime killed dozens and imprisoned thousands more in an attempt to silence an emerging opposition.

In spite of the blatant savagery by Iran's rulers, the Obama Administration said little. Upon coming to office, President Obama and his national security staff had softened America's tone towards the extremist government in Tehran as part of broader policy of appeasement that culminated in the Iran nuclear deal. The shameful response by the Obama Administration in the face of such savagery was all too reminiscent of American inaction during the Hungarian uprising in 1956 against the Soviet Union. That sad chapter in American leadership crushed the hopes of millions living behind the Iron Curtain. Succeeding Cold War presidents pointedly saw that America could not remain silent to Soviet oppression. Today we must echo the bold leadership of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, who are forever immortalized by their outspoken criticism of the evil empire. Their words emboldened fledgling democratic movements throughout Eastern Europe and ultimately contributed to the peaceful demise of the Soviet empire.

America still holds a unique duty as leader of the free world. For more than two centuries, the United States has been a symbol and protector of liberty around the globe. Our shining example of government of the people, by the people, and for the people has inspired generations to demand more from their rulers. When the American government heeds the call of those in bondage, it provides an immeasurable assurance of hope that they do not suffer in silence.

My congressional colleagues and I are watching the current protests in Iran closely. What started as a protest of the poor economic conditions inside Iran quickly sharpened its focus toward the regime that is responsible for the country's ills. If there is any silver lining to the misguided nuclear agreement the Obama Administration struck with Tehran, it is that the billions of dollars delivered to the mullahs has exposed their corruption. The Iranian people have rightly seen that despite the removal of sanctions, they are no better off because the wealth of their nation is being hoarded by the ayatollah and his IRGC goons to spread terror externally.

Our support can be more than just encouraging words. We can harness the innovation of the U.S. tech industry to allow Iranians the ability to securely communicate with each other and the outside world. Through their bravery, they can document the atrocities of the regime which we can then use to prosecute on the world stage. I welcome President Trump's leadership on the cause of the Iranian people and urge my colleagues that now is the time that we must act.

#### HONORING THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2018*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Saint Paul

Chamber Orchestra on winning a 2018 Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance for their recording of Schubert's Death & the Maiden with violinist and artistic partner Patricia Kopatchinskaja.

Founded in 1959, the SPCO is the only full-time chamber orchestra in the United States. Although they call the Ordway Concert Hall home, they present more than 130 concerts and educational programs throughout the Twin Cities each year. In addition, the Orchestra undertakes extensive international tours, and all while continuing to produce highly regarded musical recordings year after year. This is not the first Grammy for the SPCO having won Best Chamber Music Performance for their recording of Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring" in 1980.

In 2016 the SPCO broke new ground and announced that violinist Kyu-Young Kim would become its artistic director, the first time a player took that role in a major U.S. orchestra. This role is generally performed by a conductor. Since then, the orchestra has worked to become an "unconducted" ensemble, frequently performing without a conductor.

2017 was a banner season for the SPCO, one in which a new organizational attendance record was set. Nearly 116,000 people attended their concerts last season, up 5 percent from the previous year. The number of young people in attendance has more than quadrupled from previous years in a stark and important reversal of national trends.

The importance of an institution like the SPCO to our community cannot be emphasized enough. They are an invaluable asset that will continue to provide entertainment and musical education to Minnesotans for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF VONI B. GRIMES OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITIES AND NATION

#### HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2018*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Voni B. Grimes, who passed away on Friday, January 26, 2018.

Mr. Grimes was an amazing man who's left a legacy of service that won't soon be matched. He served our Nation in the U.S. Army during World War II, worked at Cole Steel in York, Pennsylvania, and later served as an administrator at Penn State York.

Voni was deeply involved in the York community. He was a founding member of several local organizations, including the York County Department of Parks and Recreation and Access-York, and was involved in countless other volunteer activities, including the Lions Club. He was passionate about personal fitness and healthy living—even up to his passing at age 95—and the College Avenue Gym at 125 East College Avenue in the City of York was famously re-named as the Voni B. Grimes Gym.

Despite the fact that he grew up in segregated schools and challenged by racism,

Voni became one of the most recognizable and influential citizens in York's history—a testament to his strength, character and faith.

Voni was one of the most uplifting, positive and life affirming people you'd ever have the privilege to meet. His infectious smile and his ever-present harmonica brought joy and inspiration to countless people.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I offer my prayers and God's blessings to the family, friends and admirers of Mr. Voni B. Grimes. Godspeed Voni—we're all better people for having known him.

IN RECOGNITION OF STAN JUDGE,  
FORMER PRESIDENT OF WILDCAT  
SKI AREA

### HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2018*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stan Judge for his decades of service to Wildcat ski area and skiing across New England.

In 2007 Stan was presented the Sherman Adams award, which is given to a person from an Eastern ski area who has significantly influenced the ski industry. This award, named after former New Hampshire governor and Loon ski area founder Sherman Adams, recognizes Stan's lifelong commitment to Wildcat and the ski industry at large. Stan also played a vital role in developing the American Standards Association Tramway Safety Code, and his leadership here brought standardized safety codes for all ski areas to use. This year as Wildcat Ski Area celebrates its sixtieth year in operation, I wanted to take the time to thank Stan for all of his work making Wildcat a safe and family-friendly place for winter recreation.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District and all those who have benefited from Stan's work, I thank him for all his passion and dedication, and I wish him the best of luck in his next step.

HONORING LIVES LOST IN  
AZERBAIJAN

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2018*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives lost in January 1990 when interethnic violence broke out in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Dozens of people died. The flailing Soviet government ultimately sent troops into the city, killing more than a hundred people. Less than two years later, Azerbaijan would declare its independence, then the Soviet Union fell in December of 1991.

Sadly, independence would not bring peace in former Soviet Republics. Violence and war broke out in Eastern Europe. Men and women died alongside soldiers in places like Khojaly. But when the dust settled, democracy emerged victorious in many countries.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must not forget the cost of freedom. Across the planet, countless people died in fights for freedom. The men

and women who died in post-Soviet wars should be memorialized. They paid the ultimate price for peace.

As we enter a new era when it seems as if democracy is on the slide, the United States Congress must stand for freedom here at home and everywhere across our planet. The people who died in Azerbaijan, in Armenia, in the Balkans, and throughout the region should be honored and memorialized. Let us not forget that peace is preferable to war.

HONORING SANTO ANTHONY  
SERGE OF RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2018*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I lift up the legacy of Mr. Santo Anthony Serge of Richland Township and join his friends and family in celebrating his life.

Mr. Serge was born in Carbondale, Pennsylvania and graduated Carbondale High School in 1940. Shortly after, he was drafted by the Boston Red Sox minor league baseball system, but was discouraged from carrying out his dream due to his mother's wishes that he "get a real job."

With the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Serge joined General Patton's Third Army, the 86th Black Hawk Division. He went on to serve as a Sergeant under Generals Patton, MacArthur and Bradley in both the European and Pacific theaters, and completed his service in 1946. Upon his return home, Mr. Serge enlisted as a Pennsylvania State Trooper and was stationed at the Butler, Quakertown, and Bethlehem Barracks. He finished his career as a detective in 1980 after more than three decades of service to his community.

His family notes that he had a natural athleticism, participating in softball and bowling leagues throughout his adult life. He enjoyed watching his children participate in sports and music during their school years, and many hours were spent in his vegetable garden surrounded by beautiful roses that he looked forward to cultivating each summer. Most of all, he shared a love of music with his wife and children.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife of 67 years, Althea, their children, Larry (Leslie, wife) Serge of Quakertown, Dennis Serge of Philadelphia, Diane Felicetti (Paul, husband) of Boyertown, and Anita Serge of Pennsylvania; their two grandchildren, Tony Serge of Quakertown and Nikki Mayette (Andrew, husband) of Sellersville; and step-grandchildren, Paul J. Felicetti of Bensalem and Nicole Felicetti of Philadelphia, Pa.

HONORING JOSEPH R. O'BRIEN

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2018*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I today say goodbye to a dear friend, Joseph R. "Joe" O'Brien, who passed away on February 7th, 2018 at the age of 79. Joe served as my Director of Public Affairs for

many years, and in that time, I came to know him as a warm, caring human being with a razor-sharp wit and tremendous sense of humor. I am going to miss him dearly.

A longtime resident of the Bronx, Joe was a newsman who later served as Deputy Press Secretary to Mayor Edward Koch from 1979 to 1985. For the next 11 years, he continued directing public relations for city and state government with the Special Services for Children agency of the Human Resources Administration, the city Department of Transportation, and the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority. He also served as Deputy Press Secretary for Yonkers Mayor Terrance Zaleski for two years before joining my office in May of 1996, where he worked until his retirement in 2013. Later he joined Bronx Community Board 8, where he served until September 2017.

Born May 26, 1938, Joe was the youngest of four children of Irish immigrants, Thomas and Margaret O'Brien (nee Coffey), and grew up in the Inwood section of upper Manhattan. He served in the Army Reserve and graduated from New York University in 1966. He worked for several newspapers in New Jersey and upstate New York. In 1967, he joined the United Press International wire service in New York as a reporter on the Local desk, and then as an editor on the International and General desks. Joe married New York Daily News reporter Cass Vanzi in 1975. The couple had two children together whom he is survived by; his daughter, Casey O'Brien Schwarz and son Scott O'Brien. Joe is also survived by his three beautiful grandchildren, Kaleb and Kaia O'Brien, and Leopold (O'Brien) Schwarz, and his brother Kenneth O'Brien of Crestwood, NY.

Everyone, who ever met Joe knew he was one of a kind. Though he was a tremendously talented writer and gifted communicator, it was his wonderful personality that really shined brightest. Nobody could light up the room with a joke or quick comment like Joe. My condolences go out to the entire O'Brien family. Joe will be greatly missed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R.  
1892, HONORING HOMETOWN HEROES ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2018*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I will vote no on H. Res. 727 because of my strong objections to the Republican majority's refusal to do Congress' work on time and their rejection of regular order for debate on critical national priorities.

H. Res. 727 makes in order H.R. 1892. This bill is entitled the Honoring Hometown Heroes Act, but in its current form this legislation has nothing to do with recognizing our first responders. I voted along with 410 of my colleagues for the original version of H.R. 1892 when it passed the House of Representatives on May 18, 2017. In fact, the version of H.R. 1892 the House will consider under H. Res. 727 denies our first responders the certainty they deserve by providing them just 43 days of federal funding.